

CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A method of constructing and accessing a database to permit an organization of the renters to analyze vehicle transaction information, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) inputting to the database a plurality of files, each file defining a vehicle rental transaction, each file comprising a parameter indicative of the vehicle rental location in terms of a plurality of geographical divisions of different granularity and a parameter indicative of an attribute of its vehicle rental transaction;
 - b) permitting the organization to select the granularity of the geographic division and identifying the vehicle rental transactions from the geographic division of selected granularity; and
 - c) collecting the parameter from all of the identified vehicle rental transactions to provide an indication of the collected parameter from all of the rental locations within the geographic division of the selected granularity.
2. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 1, wherein said selecting step b) is repeated to permit the organization to select a geographic division of a different granularity, before repeating step c) to collect the parameter from all of the identified vehicle transactions with the geographic division of the different granularity.
3. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parameter may be selected from a group comprising expenditures, the day of the vehicle

rental, the manner of payment and the miles that the vehicle was driven during the vehicle rental.

4. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 1, wherein said parameter is numerically quantifiable.

5. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 4, wherein said quantifiable parameters are selected from a group comprising: the expenditures, and the number of the days of the rental transaction.

6. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 5, wherein step a) inputs files to the database, each file of which includes a second parameter that indicates the date of the vehicle rental transaction.

7. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 6, wherein there is further included the step of setting a period of time as to the vehicle rental transactions of interest, and collecting from the identified vehicle rental transactions those files with a second parameter that falls with the set period of time.

8. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 4, wherein there is further included the step of sorting the quantifiable parameters collected by the magnitude of the summed parameter.

9. A method of constructing and accessing a database of vehicle rental information related to a plurality of organizations and their renters, at least one organization having a structure comprised of a plurality of divisions, said method comprising the steps of:

a) assigning to each vehicle renter an ID indicating the renter's affiliated organization and division;

b) constructing and inputting into a database a file that includes data for each vehicle rental transaction, each file comprising the assigned ID of the vehicle renter involved in the vehicle rental transaction;

c) permissioning each organization access to the database for only that vehicle rental transaction data which includes an ID that matches the organization seeking access; and

d) facilitating each permissioned organization to select the entire structure or division of interest and to collect vehicle rental transaction data of the renters assigned to the selected entire structure or division.

10. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 9, wherein step b) constructs each file to include at least one parameter indicative of an attribute of the vehicle rental transaction data, and step d) is repeated to permit the permissioned organization to select a different division or entire structure and collect said parameter from each of the vehicle rental transaction data of the renters assigned to the different division or entire structure.

11. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 9, wherein said parameter may be selected from a group comprising expenditure, the day of the vehicle rental, the manner of payment, and the miles that the vehicle was driven during the vehicle rental.

12. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 9, wherein step b) constructs each file to include a plurality of parameters, each parameter indicative of a different attribute of the vehicle rental transaction data, and there is further included the step of facilitating the employer to select any combination of said plurality of said parameters and

to generate a report of the data corresponding to the selected combination of parameters from the vehicle rental transaction data of the renters assigned to the selected division or entire structure.

13. The method of constructing and accessing as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one organization has a structure comprised further of a plurality of subdivisions, and step d) is repeated to permit the permissioned organization to select a different one of the entire structure, division or subdivision and collect said parameter from the vehicle rental transaction data of the renter assigned to the different entire structure, division or subdivision.

14. A method of constructing a database and facilitating at least one user to access information regarding a plurality of vehicle rental transactions, wherein each of said plurality of vehicle rental transactions is provided by one of a plurality of vehicle rental outlets, each of said plurality of vehicle rental outlets is located in one of a plurality of geographic divisions, said method comprising the steps of :

a) inputting in the database information which is indicative of which of said plurality of geographic divisions each of said plurality of vehicle rental outlets is in;

b) facilitating the one user to select the geographic division from which information regarding at least one of said plurality of vehicle rental transactions is to be accessed; and

c) identifying each of the vehicle rental transactions provided by any of said plurality of vehicle rental outlets located in said selected geographic division.

15. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 14, wherein one of said plurality of geographic divisions is of a higher granularity than another

geographic division of said plurality, and said step a) further inputs data information as to what the granularity of each of said plurality of geographic divisions is.

16. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 14, wherein said step b) further facilitates the one user to select the granularity of said geographic division from which information regarding at least one of said plurality of vehicle rental transactions provided.

17. The method constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 14, wherein said step b) facilitates the user to select the granularity of the selected geographic division.

18. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 16, wherein there is included the further step of identifying the vehicle rental transaction from which the geographic division of the selected granularity is provided.

19. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 14, wherein each of said plurality of vehicle rental transactions includes an attribute of its vehicle rental transaction, and there is included the further step of collecting the attribute from all of the identified vehicle rental transactions to provide an indication of the collected attributes from all of the rental locations within the selected geographic division respectively.

20. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 19, wherein said attribute may be selected from a group comprising the day that the vehicle was rented, the day on which the vehicle rental terminated, the manner of payment, the miles that the vehicle was driven during the vehicle rental, and the cost of the rental transaction.

21. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 14, wherein each of said geographic divisions has a granularity selected from a plurality thereof.

22. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 21, wherein each of said plurality of granularities is selected from a group comprising street addresses, cities, states, provinces, countries and combinations of countries.

23. A method of constructing a database and facilitating at least one user to access information regarding a plurality of vehicle rental transactions, the database storing the vehicle rental transaction information; said method comprising the steps of:

a) inputting to the database a plurality of files, each file comprising information about a single vehicle rental transaction, each file comprising an indication of at least one attribute of the single vehicle rental transaction; and

b) collecting from each of said plurality of filed information concerning respectively each of said plurality of vehicle rental transaction and providing an indication of the collected information that relates to said attribute.

24. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 23, wherein said one attribute is selected from a group comprising the cost of the vehicle rental, the day that the vehicle rental started, the day that the vehicle rental ended, the manner of payment and the distance that the vehicle was driven during the vehicle rental.

25. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 23, wherein each of said plurality of vehicle rental transactions is provided by one of a plurality of vehicle rental outlets, and each of said plurality of vehicle rental outlets is located in one of a plurality of geographic divisions.

26. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 23, wherein there is further included the step of inputting in the database information which is indicative

of which of said plurality of graphic divisions each of said plurality of vehicle rental outlets is in.

27. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 26, wherein there is further included the step of facilitating the one user to select the geographic division from which information regarding at least one of said plurality of vehicle rental transaction is to be accessed.

28. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 26, wherein there is the further step of identifying each of the plurality of rental transactions provided by any of said plurality of vehicle rental locations in said selected division.

29. The method of constructing and facilitating as claimed in claim 27, wherein there is further included the step of accessing said data base and collecting all of said identified attributes in said selected geographical division.

30. A method of constructing a database to enable at least one user to monitor the occurrence of a plurality of transactions, each of said plurality of transactions occurring at one of a plurality of geographic divisions, each of said transactions having at least one of a plurality of attributes, said method comprising the steps of:

a) entering data into said database indicating in which one geographical division where the transaction occurred, and indicating said one attribute of said corresponding transaction;

b) facilitating the one user to select said one of the plurality of geographical divisions and said one of the plurality of attributes; and

c) accessing said database and collecting all selected attributes in said selected geographical division.

31. The method of constructing as claimed in claim 30, wherein step A enters into the data base a plurality of files, each file defining a transaction, each file comprising an indication of which one geographical division where the transaction occurred and said one attribute of said corresponding transaction.

32. The method of constructing as claimed in claim 30, wherein said transaction is a vehicle rental transaction.

33. The method of constructing as recited in claim 30, wherein said geographic divisions comprise a selected of street addresses, cities, states, provinces, countries and combinations of countries.

34. The method of constructing as claimed in claim 32 is selected from the group comprising the method of payment, the duration of the rental transaction, the date that the rental began, the date that the rental ended, the manner of payment and the miles that the vehicle was driven during the vehicle rental.